

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action of September 29, 2004. Upon entry of this Request for Reconsideration, claims 1-8 will remain pending in this application. No amendments are considered necessary to the claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's express indication that claims 4-8 are allowed.

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Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Yeldener et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,837). The Office Action asserts Yeldener teaches each feature of the claims and thus anticipates the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1 and 2 both concern a voice signal pitch period detecting method. In the method of claim 1, the number of pitch period detecting processings is reduced when the detected pitch period does not exceed a predetermined reference value. In the method of claim 2, it is first judged whether the detected pitch period is long or short. Then, again, the number of pitch period detecting processings is reduced when it is judged that the detected pitch period is short. Hence, a determination of whether the pitch period is not more than a previously defined threshold value (e.g. a short period) is common to both the methods of claims 1 and 2. This is completely different from the method of Yeldener.

Yeldener discloses a method wherein pitch is evaluated based on pitch values of preceding and succeeding segments. Yeldener refers to this as pitch smoothing. See Column 13, Lines 35-50. However, Yeldener's pitch smoothing does not involve, and does not suggest, a determination of whether the detected pitch is not more than a

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033240.013.

Respectfully submitted,

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